

TOWN OF NEWINGTON CEIVED FOR RECORD IN MELVINGTON, CT

131 CEDAR STREET NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

2020 FEB 27 PM 12: 53

MAYOR BETH DELBUONO

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

John O Kype So Town Clerk

MEETING MINUTES February 25, 2020

Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in Room L-101

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Anest

Councilor Braverman

Councilor Budreiko

Councilor Camillo (7:07 p.m.)

Councilor Manke

Councilor Miner

Councilor Nagel

Mayor DelBuono

Staff Attendees:

Keith Chapman, Town Manager

James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk

Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Manke to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 7-0. (Councilor Donahue absent/Councilor Camillo not in room)

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736) (4 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

- Carol Duggan, 17 Dover Road, member of the Anna Reynolds Building Committee, spoke in support of the Anna Reynolds project and terrible conditions at the school
- Jeremy Whetzel, 92 Old Musket Drive, president of the PTO, spoke in support of the Anna Reynolds project and neglect of the school
- Jonas Roberts, 6 Fisk Drive, spoke in support of Anna Reynolds project and terrible condition at the school
- Sandy Austin Goldstein, [no address given] spoke in opposition of the OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program
- Phil Knowlton, 44 Cinnamon Road spoke in support of Anna Reynolds project; conditions of playground equipment at Mill Pond Park; Soccer Club of Newington - condition of fields and irrigation needed at fields behind Emmanuel Christina Academy
- Nick Pinkerton, 59 Chapman Street spoke in support of Anna Reynolds project and the conditions of soccer fields
- Scott Lewis, 174 Superior Avenue spoke in support of Anna Reynolds project and the condition of soccer fields

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507 townmanager@newingtonct.gov www.newingtonct.gov

- Paul Timmons, 196 Goodale Drive spoke regarding the soccer fields in Newington; adding \$50,000 back to P&R budget for irrigation
- Jennifer Rodriguez, 71 Northwood Road spoke in favor of the Anna Reynolds project and the conditions of the school
- Maureen Klett, 104 Harold Drive spoke in favor of the Anna Reynolds project and concerns regarding the hiring of consultants
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive, spoke in favor of the Anna Reynolds project
- Joanna Schroider (sp?), 40 Nathan Hale Drive, spoke in favor of the Anna Reynolds project and the terrible conditions of the school
- Charles Nagel, 78 Valentine Street, spoke regarding conditions of soccer fields and need for irrigation
- Eric Feldlum (sp?), 149 Basswood Road, spoke regarding condition of soccer fields and need of irrigation at field behind Emmanuel Christian Academy
- John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue spoke regarding support of Anna Reynolds project; condition of roof; soccer field needs to topsoil, not irrigation.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that an email from Forrest Helvie, 282 Lamplighter Lane was received prior to the meeting regarding support of Anna Reynolds Project (attached hereto)

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Councilor Braverman thanked the people who came out tonight to voice their concerns
- Councilor DelBuono thanked the people for coming to the meeting tonight and expressing their concerns, your presence speaks volumes; took tour of Anna Reynolds very surprised at the condition of the school; we take this matter very seriously. Discussion will be held at tonight's meeting. BOE takes care of maintenance and testing of the building. Have been told that the air quality tests have come back negative. Raise concerns to them as well.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Town Hall Project Update

• Mr. Marc Schweitzer, from the firm of Collier's International gave an update on the town hall project. It is moving along, exterior masonry complete. Interior work started, 2nd floor, first floor, then third floor. Work continuing on community center, gym. Schedule is in line with completion of town hall middle of July; phase two will begin early August. Managing the contingency, it is tight. The project is 50% complete.

B. OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program

- Town Manager Chapman stated that this is not a binding resolution. If the council chooses not to participate there is no harm or cost; strictly an opportunity to earmark Newington as a recipient of the grant when funded and what our cost would be. Not an obligation, Town can say no at any time.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she wants to reiterate her concerns about this. This is an opportunity in the future should be decide to partake in it. It is clear that this good opportunity and it will not be costing us anything at this time.

Motion by Councilor Anest

Town of Newington Support Resolution of OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program

Whereas Section 4-124s provides statewide incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on December 18th, 2019 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed resolutions authorizing development and submittal of an application packages to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Newington has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled

1. TOD Marketing and Deal Structuring Assistance

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Newington Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

- C. Town Property §8-24 Referral-Portion of 88 Stamm Road
 - Town Manager Chapman stated that a request came in from Mr. Dickie to transfer a portion of the property at 88 Stamm Road. It is a disposal of town property that requires approve from TPZ. TPZ will determine whether it is a sale or an easement.
 - Councilor Anest asked why the resolution says sale or transfer?

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby directs and authorizes the Town Manager to submit to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for its report in accordance with Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, a review of the sale or possible granting of an easement of a portion of land along Stamm Road..

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

D. Public Hearing - Affordable Housing Moratorium

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council of the Town of Newington hereby schedules a Public Hearing in Town Hall, 131 Cedar Street, Conference Room L-101, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., due to a supplied petition, to receive comments on the Newington Housing Moratorium Application.

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

VII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)

- A. Budget Transfer Request
 - James Krupienski, Town Clerk provided an explanation of transfer requests.
 - Councilor Budrejko asked how much money was in the Town Manager contingency at the start.
 - Town Clerk Krupienski stated that is was \$250,000

- B. Board of Education Education Specs for Anna Reynolds School
 - Dr. Maureen L. Brummett, Superintendent of Schools and Lou Jachimowicz, Chief Finance & Operations Officer [BOE] provided Ed Specs for Anna Reynolds School. Ms. Brummett thanked the parents and citizens for their remarks earlier. Have been working diligently on the roof leak issue, unfortunately, when one thing is solved, another thing comes up. Have had an architect look at the roof (free of charge) and there is no mold at this time. carpets tested. No bold in building at this time. On January 15th the BOE adopted Education Specifications for the proposed Anna Reynolds Renovate as New Building Project. The building committee has been meeting regularly since October 3, 2019. Met with the State Dept of Education in Hartford, they recommend renovate as new. The building is adequate in size, not looking to expand square footage. It is at the right age to renovate. In order to secure funding from the State Department of Education, it is necessary for the town to pass specific motions to approve this initiative. The Town Council needs to 1) pass a resolution authorizing the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications of the project, and 2) pass a resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to file a grant application with the State Department of Education for the proposed project by June 30, 2020. Do have time restraints relative to that – all resolutions need to be passed by June 15th.
 - Councilor Budrejko stated that in Item 2 of your memo it states, "initial cost estimates need to be agreed upon (but not identified in the motion) for inclusion in the grant application." When will we know what the initial cost estimate will be?
 - Ms. Brummett that is where Item 1, the preparation of schematic drawings comes in. This will determine a fairly accurate cost estimate. These are all very time sensitive. Even if we get one and two done, we need to show them that funding is available through referendum. All dependent on one another.
 - Councilor Budrejko asked is the services for an architect would go out to bid.
 - Lou Jachimowicz stated that it would be an RFP. And the process will probably take 2-3 months.
 - Councilor Miner stated that he has been on the committee since it was formed in 2019. The last renovation was in 2001 and was very specific in scope.
 - Mr. Jachimowicz stated that project added 17,000 sf to the building.
 - Councilor Minder stated that the building was designed as a middle school when originally constructed and not conducive to young children and is outdated. Renovation as new reimbursement rate is what currently/
 - Mr. Jachimowicz stated it is in the low 50's.
 - Councilor Miner stated that on the funding to go to RFP, is there any advance work that has been done to start the process? My concern is that we are in February and it has to be done by June, is there enough time to come up with a schematic design. I will not agree anything going to referendum on a conceptual budget again.
 - Mr. Jachimowicz stated the RFP process should be viewed as a 2 step arrangement. The architect you engage for the preliminary study, may not be the one you use down the road. Looking for a conceptual budget could only take 6-8 weeks.
 - Councilor Miner stated that will not be enough time to come up with an actual budget and that is my fear.
 - Ms. Brummett stated that she invited Ken Biega who has toured Anna Reynolds and can
 maybe speak to the time frame and the work that needs to be done. Ken is with O&G
 Industries and has done some work previously in the town and some work in my former
 district.
 - Mr. Biega stated that is a tight schedule. The only plus you have is that you don't need a referendum by June 30th, you can do that during your normal election time. We have

- provided a rough estimate of what this would cost. Mr. Biega provided an outline of what needs to be done and how the cost should be accomplished.
- Councilor Miner asked if the town could do a referendum prior to knowing whether or not funding from the state is approved. Will we have a committed state reimbursement? What is the deadline for the referendum.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that you don't need all answers by June 30th, just a willingness to go ahead with the project and have a referendum before the state will consider it. If it passes it will got to the bonding commission, if it fails, it won't.
- Councilor Miner stated that if it gets approved by referendum and we go before the bonding commission in December, my concern is if we get bumped, that we don't box ourselves into a corner.
- Mr. Biega stated that is you take cation to move this forward, the state funds don't become available until the following year. You go out to bid and don't have any projects start until you get the funds. If you don't do this by June 30th, you will be out another whole year plus.
- Councilor Miner stated that this needs to be done and we need to proceed with this.
- Councilor Manke asked what renovate to new means.
- Ms. Brummett stated that the building would look new; it would have the same footprint, but everything would be new hvac, mechanicals, etc.
- Mr. Biega stated that the state wants everything to be updated to a 20 year standard. It will be a huge plus for the older portion of the building. You can look at several options to help reduce the overall cost of running the facility.
- Councilor Manke asked if the Ed Specs were standard.
- Ms. Brummett stated that she has used these ed specs in a previous project.
- Mr. Biega stated that the ed specs are intentionally broad; you don't want to be too specific.
- Councilor Anest asked about the timeline. At the next meeting we vote this up or down. The concern is where does the funding come to do the schematics and are you looking to hire an OPM? Best case scenario, BOE has done what they needed to do. So it will go out to RFP and that will be two months?
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated yes is a reasonable time line to get a schematic and would have a good scope of what needs to be done.
- Councilor Anest asked if that can continue after the grant application is submitted and when we go to referendum in November we have a good, hard number.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that is correct, you can continue to refine the numbers until notice of referendum is sent.
- Councilor Anest stated that you are looking at construction in early 2022.
- Ms. Brummett stated that hopefully begin work in 2021.
- Mr. Biega stated that you want to have that first summer to do abatement when the children are not in there.
- Councilor Anest asked how this will be done while school is in session.
- Ms. Brummett stated that is can be done, need to be creative. It is doable, it is challenging.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that it will most likely be done in phases.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that once June 30th comes, what does the state do with the application? Do they do anything with it between then and date of the referendum?
- Mr. Biega state no. On December 15th they issue a letter of approved project. They just collect this information and have it. The state is looking to spend approx. \$400 million for school construction projects. The sooner you get in is a plus.
- Councilor Budrejko asked if we submit the grant, when do we know we got approved?

- Mr. Biega stated that is it after the referendum. On December 15th they come out with a list of all the approved projects.
- Councilor Budrejko asked what happens if we don't get on the list.
- Mr. Biega stated that has happened, but it was not clear cut dollar wise, there were other issues.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that Ms. Brummett has already greased the wheel.
- Ms. Brummett stated that she has met with Bob Selmer and Costas Diamontis who are in charge there. We have a file, we are a known entity. They know we are in some sort of process, but nothing will happen without the resolutions that need to be passed. Have been told that you need to get in front of the power that be so they recognize your project when it comes through their inbox.
- Councilor Anest asked if it passes referendum and we don't get funding from the state, are we bound by the referendum?
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she was going to ask that. How is the referendum worded? Does it state that is it contingent upon the funding?
- Ms. Brummett stated that it is her understanding that if we don't receive funding from the state, we don't need to proceed with the project.
- Mayor DelBuono asked the town manager and town clerk what our deadline is for getting a referendum to the state.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that his deadline for something to be added to the ballot needs to be submitted to the state by September. Will verify that.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that once the referendum passes, and we get approved funding from the state, when would the bond hit our budget? Right now the funding for the town hall comes out of the CIP piece and out biggest payment is next year when it hits and limits our spending for capital projects.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that will be at least 6-9 months, no authorization until the June-September time frame. The town is eligible for 50% of the cost. For example if it is \$30 million, the town will be responsible for only half the cost though bond issue or operating funds. You should probably have something in there for the 2021-2022 CIP.
- Mayor DelBuono asked about the reimbursement and the square footage of the building.
- Ms. Brummett stated that since we will be adding a preschool the square footage shouldn't be a question and take care of that gap.
- Councilor Miner stated that preschool should be something we need to look at as a whole.
- Councilor Nagel stated that he has been listening intently. What is the time when the state will reimburse the town for whatever percentage?
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that project reimbursement schedule be will monthly based on payment applications that are submitted and signed off on by the architect that documents work that has been completed.
- Councilor Nagel stated that they will not provide us with a lump sum.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that the state does not provide a lump sum payment; they reimburse monthly.
- Councilor Manke stated that the cost is going to be \$30 million?
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that if we are looking to renovate to new, that will be a higher price tag. \$30 million is a good starting point. The architect can provide a better figure than I can. There are many things that need to be considered.
- Councilor Manke stated that we need to get started on fixing the roof, that is critical.
- Ms. Brummett stated that the issue by fixing the roof now is that when we do the renovation we will be digging into that roof for electrical and hvac and all that. The cost of a new roof would require referendum as well.
- Mr. Biega stated that you look at doing repairs to the roof area that are bad.

- Councilor Camillo asked what the plan is to protect the kids for the next couple of years.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that the problem with the current roof is that it is concave and have ponding water on the roof. Have moisture trapped on the underlayment that needs to dry out.
- Councilor Camillo asked why the classrooms with plastic and buckets aren't closed and the kids moved somewhere else.
- Ms. Brummett stated that there is not a lot of extra space to do that. We will continue to work on it.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that we get approval from the state for \$30 million but some unforeseen expense comes up. Are we able to get additional funding from the state for that or is there a cap?
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that the state determines the reimbursement rate for every community in the State of Connecticut based on wealth formula. For Newington that has been 52-58% over the years.
- Councilor Budrejko asked if there is a cap on the 50% or is it a project as a whole?
- Mr. Biega stated that the state would look at the project as a whole; and there would be a construction contingency in there. They want you to keep to what was approved by the referendum.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that for the town hall, there was an additional \$3 million required. If we went to referendum for \$30 million and the actual project cost \$35 million, the state will reimburse for only 50% of the \$30 million. Correct?
- Mr. Biega stated that is correct, but you can go back to the state and appeal the amount and ask to have that added to the project cost.
- Councilor Miner stated that is why you do your due diligence in advance.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that the last date the council can adopt a question to be placed on the ballot in November is September 3; your last regular meeting is August 25th.

C. Bid Waiver – Audio-Visual & Security – Town Hall Renovation Project (waiver requested)

- Town Manager Chapman stated that being new here and trying to trace the history of this new town hall project has not been easy. In this particular case, the information I had presented to me indicated we are able to move forward with the waiving the bids to get this part of the project moving forward. I have since been informed the Committee has never discussed this particular issue so at this time, I suggest that this be discussed by the Town Hall Building Committee prior to the council taking action.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that Mr. Harpie is willing to call a special meeting to discuss this.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Appointment – Conservation Commission, Alternate

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council here by makes the following appointment(s):

Conservation/Inland Wetlands Commission

7 Members – 4 year staggered term 3 Alternates – 4 year staggered term Member Max: 5 Alternate Max: 2

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces	

Ben Ancona, III,	42 East Robbins Avenue	R	2/25/2020 -	Vacancy, Appt of J Bachand
Alternate			11/30/2023	to Full Member

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

IX. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Approval of February 11, 2020 Refund for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,827.07 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Manke to accept the minutes of the above referenced meeting. Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

- B. Amend the Previously Approved Minutes of January 14, 2020
 - James Krupienski, Town Clerk stated that he was contacted by Barbara Squillacote of 275 Field Street regarding an error in the spelling of her name and her address in the second Public Participation session of the January 14, 2020 council meeting.
- XI. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC
 - None

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736) (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

- Steven Silvia, 45 Basswood Street thanked everyone for their consideration of the Anna Reynolds project. Ask that you continue to consider the needs of our library, fire department and town in general.
- John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill stated that the electrical demand for the town hall is a 600,000 watt generator; brought up discussion of solar panels, should be done now, not later. I was shocked by the Anna Reynold figure. Cost does not bother me. We have a good tax base, can afford what we want. My problem is with the process and transparency process. Don't agree with not having a budget before hand. Surprised to hear that we will pull the project if we don't get the funding. One mil in our mil rate is not a lot.

XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- Councilor Anest stated that the TPZ will be having a public hearing on the final draft of the POCD at 7:00 p.m. (February 26th) in the auditorium. Gives the public an opportunity to speak on it.
- Councilor Budrejko stated she wanted to give a shout out to the Newington Volunteer Fire Department. This past weekend they held a reunion for Iwo Jima survivors. It as a 2-day

- event. Admiral Todd of the Marine Corp. came to speak. 75th Anniversary of the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima and the 25th anniversary of the memorial in New Britain. Very proud of the job our volunteer fire department did wit the event. They did an excellent job.
- Councilor Manke stated that he attended the event and it was wonderful to see all these veterans of different ages.
- Councilor Miner stated that he wanted to clarify what John bought up regarding my concerns about moving forward unless it was at a schematic design level. I will stand by my words and when you go into a project at a level below that, your understanding of true costs is not anywhere near a true valid number. I think that is the only responsible way to pursue a project and not provide unrealistically low numbers. The Department of Education sets the reimbursement rates.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she too attended the events over the weekend. Sunday's event was more solemn and held at the memorial; our firehouse hosted an event on Saturday and there was memorabilia there that families shared with us and survivors shared their stories, it was very informal, nice to see them sharing their stories. Important for us to strive to remember these things. This is what shaped our country and we need to continue to honor those who fought and sacrificed for our country. So proud of our fire department, they really are a community service organization. It speaks volumes to the volunteerism of our town.
- Councilor Nagel stated the he knew some of the veterans that stood up and told stories.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. CONTRACTS – CGS § 1-200(6)(B) – AFSCME NEGOTIATIONS

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(B) hereby moves to go into Executive Session, and invites the Town Council members, the Mayor and Keith Chapman, Town Manager, to discuss a Contract matter – AFSCME CONTRACT.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

Executive Session started at 9:30 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 9:50 p.m.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Manke to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Miner. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Donahue absent).

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk



TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

From: Forrest C. Helvie < forrest.helvie@att.net > Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 6:43:59 PM

To: DelBuono, Beth; Anest, Carol

Subject: Letter for Inclusion in the Public Portion of the TC Meeting on 2/25

Good Evening, Mayor DelBuono and Councilperson Anest:

I am writing to request that someone read the following statement into the minutes during the public portion of the town council meeting taking place tomorrow evening. Thank you kindly.

Good Evening, Members of the Town Council.

I am writing in this evening primarily to the members of our majority party, as I believe you are uniquely positioned to take advantage of an opportunity for a bipartisan measure. And I think we could ALL use a little of that!

In mid-January, your party-led Board of Education passed a series specs related to the renovation of Anna Reynolds Elementary school – recent national-Blue Ribbon awarded school. And it's also a school in desperate need of repair due to many years of neglect. Avoiding the blame game of who's fault that is – because we can all point to people on both sides of the aisle – now is a time to move us forward. Tonight, you are in a position to approve these specifications and pass a resolution that will authorize our BOE to prepare the schematics as well as authorize our new Superintendent of Schools to file a grant application with the state department of education to help fund this project, which could make this much less expensive for our town in the long run (and should be much less impactful on our mill rate should we receive said grant funds).

I'm addressing our majority members because it's clear that, if after authorizing these exploratory measures, you find that this is not tenable, you possess the majority on both governing boards to bring it to a halt. But, it would be a shame and disservice to the AR families to not look into this possibility for renovating their school just as other elementary schools received similar support in previous years.

Again, budget season is coming and the challenge for working together will be great; however, it seems like this is one opportunity for members of both parties to find a little common ground and come together for a shared concern.

As always, thank you all for your time and service to Newington.

Respectfully,

Forrest C. Helvie, Ph.D. 282 Lamp Lighter Lane Newington, CT 06111 860-378-4737 (c)